

From: [Craig Matthiessen](#)
To: [Sam Coleman](#)
Cc: [Albert Venosa](#); [Craig Carroll](#); [Dana Tulis](#); [Mark Hansen](#); [Jon Rauscher](#); [Dana Tulis](#); [Steve Mason](#)
Subject: Re: ethoxylated nonylphenol
Date: 05/20/2010 08:52 PM

Hi; did a little digging on this substance. Didn't find anything relative to its bioaccumulation assertion; only that certain nonoxynols (of which this is one) have mild to medium estrogenic concerns - in fact one version is used as a spermicide.

Ethoxylated nonylphenol (CAS #9016-45-9) - a non-ionic surfactant (here's a wiki page on surfactants: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Surfactant>)

Note at the bottom of this page, surfactants "are known to taste good to animals, ecosystems and humans, and can increase the diffusion of other environmental contaminants. Despite this, they are routinely deposited in numerous ways on land and into water systems, whether as part of an intended process or as industrial and household waste." According to Dow: "These surfactants are used anywhere there is a need for increased surface activity, and provide excellent all-purpose detergency and wetting, as well as solubilization and emulsification."

According to our CAMEO database: General Description: Colorless liquid or white solid with a mild odor. May float or sink in water. A low molecular-weight polymer. Used as a non-ionic surfactant, as an emulsifier, or as a metal cleaner, depending on the degree of polymerization.

Here is a link to an information sheet in the Coast Guard chemical hazard (CHRIS) manual: <http://cameochemicals.noaa.gov/chris/ENP.pdf>

Scroll down to the water pollution box which notes that aquatic toxicity ranges from low to high depending on the degree of polymerization. Also note that there's no food chain concentration potential - perhaps this is an indicator of a lack of bioaccumulation. One manufacturer of an ethoxylated nonylphenol (with a different CAS number) for a powdered vehicle wash says its biodegradable.

The only concern I ran across is on this wiki for nonoxynols:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nonoxynol>

They have a mild to medium estrogenic function; some companies have removed these from their laundry detergents. The question would be in what form the ethoxylated nonylphenol takes when it breaks down the oil and whether the resulting substance has an estrogenic or bioaccumulation concern.

Craig Matthiessen

▼ [Sam Coleman---05/20/2010 08:06:59 PM---Tonight?](#)

From: Sam Coleman/R6/USEPA/US
To: Dana Tulis/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Albert Venosa/CI/USEPA/US@EPA, "Dana Tulis" <tulis.dana@epa.gov>, Craig Matthiessen/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc: Jon Rauscher/R6/USEPA/US@EPA, "Mark Hansen" <hansen.mark@epa.gov>, "Craig Carroll" <carroll.craig@epa.gov>
Date: 05/20/2010 08:06 PM

Tonight?

Samuel Coleman, PE
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Sent by EPA Wireless E-Mail Services

▼ Dana Tulis

----- Original Message -----

From: Dana Tulis
Sent: 05/20/2010 08:06 PM EDT
To: Sam Coleman; Albert Venosa; "Dana Tulis" <tulis.dana@epa.gov>; Craig Matthiessen
Cc: Jon Rauscher; "Mark Hansen" <hansen.mark@epa.gov>; "Craig Carroll" <carroll.craig@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: ethoxylated nonylphenol

I would like Craig M to lead this effort,

▼ Sam Coleman

----- Original Message -----

From: Sam Coleman
Sent: 05/20/2010 07:27 PM EDT
To: Albert Venosa; "Dana Tulis" <tulis.dana@epa.gov>
Cc: Jon Rauscher; "Mark Hansen" <hansen.mark@epa.gov>; "Craig Carroll" <carroll.craig@epa.gov>
Subject: Fw: ethoxylated nonylphenol

Need to know all you know about this compound.

Samuel Coleman, PE
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Sent by EPA Wireless E-Mail Services

▼ Steve Mason

----- Original Message -----

From: Steve Mason
Sent: 05/20/2010 06:23 PM CDT
To: Sam Coleman
Subject: ethoxylated nonylphenol

Faithfully yours
Steve

"Frequently, my thoughts get bored and walk

down to my mouth. Often, this is a bad thing."

Steve Mason, EPA Region 6 (6SF-PE)
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